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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples for 2003

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** The present document contains chapters III-XI of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/58/23 (Part I). The recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly will be issued under the symbol A/58/23 (Part III). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/58/23).

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Chapter III
Dissemination of information on decolonization

1. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003.

3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, resolution 57/139 of 11 December 2002 on the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 57/140 of the same date on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. The Special Committee held consultations with representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.3).

5. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/2003/18) and a draft resolution on the item submitted by him (A/AC.109/2003/L.4).

6. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced an oral amendment by which the words "in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization" would be added to the end of paragraph 1.

7. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.4, as orally amended, without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/19).

8. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/19 appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. G).

Chapter IV
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

9. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Special Committee also decided that the item should be considered at its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

10. The Special Committee considered the item at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003.

11. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including, in particular, the pertinent provisions of resolution 57/140 of 11 December 2002 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

Countries and Peoples and resolutions 57/137 and 57/138 A and B of the same date relating to specific Territories.

12. In addition to the consideration of the item, the Special Committee considered the specific Territories referred to it, taking into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 57/139 and 57/140, as well as previous decisions of the Special Committee relating to the question.

13. At its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003, the Chairman drew attention to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2003/L.6).

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced an oral amendment by which the words "in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization" would be added to the end of paragraphs 1 and 2.

15. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.6, as orally amended, without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/21).

16. By adopting at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, a resolution on Tokelau (A/AC.109/2003/26) and a consolidated resolution on 11 small Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2003/27), the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in its recommendations to the General Assembly in chapters X and XI (see also A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. E relating to Tokelau and sect. F relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands).

17. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/21, adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003, is reproduced below:

Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with appreciation the continuing exemplary cooperation of New Zealand, as an administering Power, in the work of the Special Committee, and that,

at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, two visiting missions were dispatched to Tokelau, in July 1994[1] and in August 2002,

Recalling the dispatch in 1979 of a United Nations visiting mission to the Territory of Guam, noting the recommendation of the 1996 Pacific Regional Seminar that a visiting mission be sent to Guam, and taking note of resolution No. 464 (LS), adopted by the twenty-third Guam legislature on 19 July 1996, in which it requested the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory,

Welcoming the continuing informal dialogue between the Special Committee and some administering Powers,

1. *Stresses* the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

2. *Calls upon* the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization;

3. *Requests* the administering Powers to consider new approaches in the work of the Special Committee, and urges them to cooperate with the Special Committee in its efforts;

4. *Requests* its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate;

5. *Also requests* its Chairman to enter into consultations with the administering Power of Guam with a view to facilitating the dispatch of a United Nations visiting mission to that Territory.

Chapter V

Economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

18. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of economic and other activities that affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

19. The Special Committee considered the item at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003.

20. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including, in particular, resolution 57/132 of 11 December 2002 on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant provisions of resolution 55/146 on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and resolution 57/140 on the implementation of the Declaration. Additionally, the

Special Committee took into consideration the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the last preambular paragraph of resolution A/AC.109/2003/28, adopted on 23 June 2003.

21. In 1994, the Special Committee, in keeping with its consistent goal of limiting documentation and streamlining its report to the General Assembly, recommended to the Assembly that, in preparing the general working papers on the Territories, the Secretariat should, where applicable, incorporate under separate headings those sections relating to economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and those on military activities and arrangements in those Territories. By adopting resolution 49/89 of 16 December 1994, the Assembly approved, inter alia, that recommendation.

22. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it working papers prepared by the Secretariat containing, inter alia, information on economic conditions, with particular reference to foreign economic activities, in the following Territories: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/2003/1-2, 5, 8-9, 11-12).

23. At the 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, the Chairman drew attention to the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat and containing references to economic and other activities that affected the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2003/L.8).

24. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.8 without a vote (A/AC.109/2003/28).

25. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/28, adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. B).

Chapter VI

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

26. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

27. The Special Committee considered the item at its 9th meeting, on 18 June 2003.

28. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/133 of 11 December 2002 on the

implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, in paragraph 20 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The Special Committee also took into account all other resolutions adopted by the Assembly on the subject, including resolution 55/146 declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the Second Decade containing the updated plan of action for the Second Decade (A/56/61, annex).

29. The Special Committee also took into account the relevant documents of other intergovernmental bodies concerned, to which reference is made in the fourth preambular paragraph of resolution A/AC.109/2003/25, adopted on 18 June 2003.

30. At the 9th meeting, on 18 June 2003, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/58/66) and to the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration (see E/2003/47), as well as to the draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2003/L.9).

31. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.9 without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/25).

32. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/25, adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 18 June 2003, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. C).

Chapter VII

Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations

33. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

34. The Special Committee considered the item at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003.

35. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the resolutions of the General Assembly concerning information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter and related questions, in particular resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, by which the Assembly decided, inter alia, to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and to transfer certain of its functions to the Special Committee, and resolution 57/131 of 11 December 2002, in paragraph 4 of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to discharge the functions entrusted to it under resolution 1970 (XVIII), in accordance with established procedures, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth

session. Furthermore, the Special Committee took into account the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 57/140 of 11 December 2002, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as 55/146 of 8 December 2000, relating to the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

36. At the 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003, the Chairman drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/58/69), which reflected the dates of transmission of information under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations by the administering Powers in regard to Territories under their respective administration, as well as to a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2003/L.5).

37. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.5 without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/20).

38. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/20, adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 2 June 2003, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. A).

Chapter VIII
Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara

39. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara as separate items and to consider them at its plenary meetings.

40. In its consideration of the items, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly resolutions 57/135 and 57/136 of 11 December 2002 and decision 57/526 of the same date, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

A. Gibraltar

41. The Special Committee considered the question of Gibraltar at its 4th meeting, on 4 June 2003.

42. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2003/3).

43. At the 4th meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

44. At the same meeting, with the consent of the Special Committee, Keith Azopardi, Deputy Chief Minister of Gibraltar, made a statement on behalf of the Chief Minister of Gibraltar and replied to questions posed to him by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Bolivia as well as the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.4).

45. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, a statement was made by Joseph Bossano, Leader of the Opposition in Gibraltar (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.4).

46. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Papua New Guinea (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.4).

47. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain made a statement (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.4).

48. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-eighth session and, in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

B. New Caledonia

49. The Special Committee considered the question of New Caledonia at its 7th meeting, on 12 June 2003.

50. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2003/7).

51. At the 7th meeting, on 12 June, the Chairman drew the attention of the members of the Committee to the working paper and to the text of a draft resolution contained in document A/AC.109/2003/L.10 (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.7).

52. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.10 (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.7).

53. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.10, without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/23).

54. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/23, adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 12 June 2003, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. D).

C. Western Sahara

55. The Special Committee considered the question of Western Sahara at its 5th meeting, on 9 June 2003.

56. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2003/14).

57. At its 5th meeting, on 9 June 2003, in accordance with a decision taken at its 3rd meeting, the Special Committee granted a request for hearing to Boukhari Ahmed of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y del Río de

Oro (Frente POLISARIO), who made a statement at the same meeting (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.5).

58. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Special Committee decided, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give in that connection at its fifty-eighth session and in order to facilitate consideration of the question by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), to transmit the relevant documentation to the Assembly.

Chapter IX

American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands

59. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands and to consider them at its plenary meetings.

60. In its consideration of the items, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 57/140 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. In paragraph 8 (c) of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Special Committee, inter alia, to continue to pay special attention to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination. The Special Committee also took into account relevant resolutions and decisions on the Territories adopted by the Assembly.

61. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the administering Powers concerned, did not participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the Territories under their administration.[2] However, as a result of informal consultations with the Special Committee held during its substantive session in 2003, both administering Powers reaffirmed their desire to continue an informal dialogue with the Special Committee on the questions.

62. The Special Committee considered the 11 Territories at its 4th, 7th and 10th meetings, on 4, 12 and 23 June 2003.

63. During its consideration of the items, the Special Committee had before it the working papers prepared by the Secretariat on the Territories (A/AC.109/2003/1-2, 4-5, 8-9, 11-13 and 15-16).

64. At its 4th meeting, on 4 June 2003, with the consent of the Special Committee, the Honourable McKeeva Bush, Leader of Government Business of the Cayman Islands, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.4).

65. At its 7th meeting, on 12 June 2003, with the consent of the Special Committee, Carlyle Corbin, representative of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.7).

66. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, Phylis Fleming-Banks, on behalf of the Anguilla National Trust, made a statement and replied to questions posed to her by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Bolivia as well as the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.7).

67. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at the outset of the meeting, statements were made by Sophia Ann Harris, on behalf of the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce, Alice May Coe, on behalf of The Concerned Citizens of the Cayman Islands, and Sandra Catron, on behalf of the People for Referendum. The petitioners replied to questions posed to them by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, Papua New Guinea, and Bolivia as well as the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.7).

68. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representative of Cuba and the Chairman (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.7).

69. At the same meeting also, following a statement by the Chairman, the Committee decided to continue consideration of the item at a later meeting (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.7).

70. On 20 June 2003, the Committee had before it the consolidated draft resolution on the item submitted by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.13).

71. At the 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, with the Committee's consent, a statement was made by Kevin Brian Young on behalf of the Mayor of Pitcairn (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.10).

72. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement wherein he introduced the consolidated draft resolution (A/AC.109/2003/L.13) relating to the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands and made some oral revisions.

73. The following revisions were made to part A of the draft resolution:

(a) In paragraph 8, the words "Territories and the" would be inserted before the words "administering Powers" and the words "in consultation with the peoples of the Territories" would be deleted;

(b) In the operative paragraph 12 the words "Calls upon" would be replaced by the word "Invites".

74. The following revisions were made to part B of the draft resolution:

I. American Samoa

(a) In operative paragraph 2, fifth line, the words "to assist" would be replaced by the words "welcomes the assistance from the administering Power to";

XI. United States Virgin Islands

(b) A new third preambular paragraph would be inserted to read as follows:

"*Noting* the expressed interest of the territorial Government to be included in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme,";

(c) In paragraph 1, the words "including assistance in the conduct of a political education programme to heighten the awareness of the people of their options for self-determination" would be deleted;

(d) A new paragraph 3 would be inserted after the current operative paragraph 2 to read as follows:

"3. *Calls* for the inclusion of the Territory in regional programmes of the United Nations Development Programme, consistent with the participation of other Non-Self-Governing Territories;";

(e) All subsequent operative paragraphs would be renumbered accordingly.

75. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.13, as orally revised, without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/27).

76. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/27, adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. F).

Chapter X
Tokelau

77. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of Tokelau as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

78. The Special Committee considered the item at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003.

79. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (see A/AC.109/2003/10).

80. At the 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, with the consent of the Special Committee, the *Ulu o Tokelau* and the Administrator of Tokelau made statements (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.10).

81. At the same meeting, the *Ulu o Tokelau* and the Administrator of Tokelau replied to questions posed to them by the Chairman and the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Côte d'Ivoire and Bolivia (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.10).

82. At the same meeting, the representative of Papua New Guinea made a statement wherein he introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.11 and made the following oral revisions:

(a) The second preambular paragraph would be replaced by the following text:

"*Recalling* the solemn declaration on the future status of Tokelau in the 1994 'Voice of Tokelau', which stated that an act of self-determination in Tokelau was under active consideration, together with the constitution of a self-governing Tokelau, and that the then preference of Tokelau was for a status of free association with New Zealand,";

(b) The seventh and eighth preambular paragraphs would be merged into one paragraph to read as follows:

"*Recalling* the dispatch in August 2002 of a United Nations Mission to Tokelau, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the representatives of Tokelau,";

(c) Paragraph 5 would be replaced with the following text:

"5. *Acknowledges also* the progress made to that goal under the Modern House of Tokelau programme and welcomes the decision taken by the General Fono in June 2003 to set a target date of 30 June 2004 for the transfer to each Taupulega (Village Council) of full responsibility for the management of all its public services;"

(d) In paragraph 7, after the words "a local public service employer" the remainder of the paragraph would be deleted;

(e) Paragraph 13 would be replaced with the following text:

"13. *Acknowledges* the desire of the partners to reaffirm their commitment to each other and welcomes the agreement reached in Wellington on 19 June 2003 on the text of an agreement on the principles underpinning the relationship for which the formal approval of the Government of New Zealand is being sought;";

(f) In paragraph 19, in the second line, the word "education" would be replaced by the word "information" and, in the fifth line, the words "decides to provide all available assistance in this regard" would be replaced by the words "welcomes the invitation extended to the Chairman of the Special Committee to attend the constitutional convention to be held in Tokelau in September 2003".

83. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.11, as orally revised, without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/26).

84. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/26, adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 23 June 2003, appears in the form of a recommendation of the Special Committee to the General Assembly in part III of the present report (see A/58/23 (Part III), chap. XII, sect. E).

Chapter XI
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

85. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2003, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2003/L.2), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to take up the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) as a separate item and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

86. The Special Committee considered the item at its 8th meeting, on 16 June 2003.

87. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account General Assembly decision 57/511 of 11 November 2002, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions.

88. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat containing information on developments concerning the Territory (A/AC.109/2003/17).

89. At the 8th meeting, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the item. The Special Committee decided to accede to the requests.

90. At the same meeting, in accordance with a decision taken at its 6th meeting, statements were made by the Honourable Michael Summers and the Honourable John Birmingham of the Legislative Council of the Falkland Islands, and James Douglas Lewis and Alejandro Betts (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.8).

91. At the same meeting, the representative of Chile introduced, also on behalf of Bolivia, Cuba and Venezuela, a draft resolution on the item (A/AC.109/2003/L.12).

92. At the same meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina made a statement (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.8).

93. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Peru (on behalf of the Rio Group), Paraguay (on behalf of the MERCOSUR countries, plus Bolivia and Chile), Brazil, China, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic (on behalf of the host country of the Ibero-American Summit), Uruguay, Indonesia, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, the Russian Federation, Bolivia, Congo, Ethiopia and the United Republic of Tanzania (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.8).

94. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2003/L.12 without a vote (see A/AC.109/2003/24).

95. The representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Papua New Guinea made statements in explanation of their position (see A/AC.109/2003/SR.8).

96. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2003/24, adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 16 June 2003, is reproduced below:

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Aware that the maintenance of colonial situations is incompatible with the United Nations ideal of universal peace,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, 2065 (XX) of 16 December 1965, 3160 (XXVIII) of 14 December 1973, 31/49 of 1 December 1976, 37/9 of 4 November 1982, 38/12 of 16 November 1983, 39/6 of 1 November 1984, 40/21 of 27 November 1985, 41/40 of 25 November 1986, 42/19 of

17 November 1987 and 43/25 of 17 November 1988, Special Committee resolutions A/AC.109/756 of 1 September 1983, A/AC.109/793 of 21 August 1984, A/AC.109/842 of 9 August 1985, A/AC.109/885 of 14 August 1986, A/AC.109/930 of 14 August 1987, A/AC.109/972 of 11 August 1988, A/AC.109/1008 of 15 August 1989, A/AC.109/1050 of 14 August 1990, A/AC.109/1087 of 14 August 1991, A/AC.109/1132 of 29 July 1992, A/AC.109/1169 of 14 July 1993, A/AC.109/2003 of 12 July 1994, A/AC.109/2033 of 13 July 1995, A/AC.109/2062 of 22 July 1996, A/AC.109/2096 of 16 June 1997, A/AC.109/2122 of 6 July 1998, A/AC.109/1999/23 of 1 July 1999, A/AC.109/2000/23 of 11 July 2000, A/AC.109/2001/25 of 29 June 2001 and A/AC.109/2002/25 of 19 June 2002 and Security Council resolutions 502 (1982) of 3 April 1982 and 505 (1982) of 26 May 1982,

Distressed that, notwithstanding the time that has elapsed since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX), this prolonged dispute has not yet been settled,

Aware of the interest of the international community in the resumption by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of their negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Expressing its preoccupation over the fact that the good level of relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not yet led to negotiations on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Considering that this situation should facilitate the resumption of the negotiations in order to find a peaceful solution to the dispute over sovereignty,

Reaffirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and the peaceful settlement of international disputes,

Calling attention to the importance of the Secretary-General continuing his efforts to give full effect to the mission entrusted to him by the General Assembly in the resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

Reaffirming the need for the parties to take due account of the interests of the population of the islands in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),

1. *Reiterates* that the way to put an end to the special and particular colonial situation in the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) is the peaceful and negotiated settlement of the dispute over sovereignty between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

2. *Takes note* of the views expressed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

3. *Regrets* that, in spite of the widespread international support for a negotiation between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom that includes all aspects on the future of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), the

implementation of the General Assembly resolutions on this question has not yet started;

4. *Requests* the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom to consolidate the current process of dialogue and cooperation through the resumption of negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25;

5. *Reiterates its firm support* for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolutions on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);

6. *Decides* to keep under review the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) subject to the directives that the General Assembly has issued and may issue in that regard.

Notes

[1] See A/AC.109/2009.

[2] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.